



Spring Valley Children's News

Spring 2008

Holy Week Activities

Spring Valley UMC



Palm Sunday

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the Palm Processions at all worship services on Sunday, March 16th. Please gather in the Loggia area at 8:15 and 10:45 for the Traditional services and gather at 10:45 in the Dining Room for the Common Ground service. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate with their children who are very young!



Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, March 23rd during the Sunday School Hour (9:45-10:45). Children will be divided according to age/grade and will hunt for eggs in different areas. Donations of wrapped candy and plastic eggs are needed before Wednesday, March 19th.



The Journey Through Holy Week: A Good Friday Service for Children

Children ages 4 years through 6th grade are invited to participate in a special Good Friday Service created just for them on Friday, March 21st at 7:30pm in Asbury Hall. The program is interactive with children moving around to several different stations either alone or in a small group and doing activities that help

them understand the story of Jesus' death and resurrection in an age appropriate way. The service will also include a group worship element as well as a snack and craft. Parents are welcome to participate along with their child or are encouraged to attend the Good Friday Service held concurrently in the Sanctuary.

Childcare for children younger than 4 years is provided during the service.

The Children's Council invites you to join us for an egg stuffing party on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm at the church to prepare for the hunt. Childcare for young children provided.



MISSION POSSIBLE Kids

Mission Possible Kids chapter coming this spring to Spring Valley!

Mission Possible Kids a.k.a. MPkids is a non-profit organization, empowering kids to change the world by helping others—our "agents" are up to the challenge.

How do MPkids change the world? By going on missions of course! Collecting goods for food banks, cooking meals for homeless shelters, making gifts for hospitalized children, raising money to end world hunger—the

list goes on and on. Each MPkids agent can touch as many as 100 lives in one school year. Multiply that number times the 20, 50, 100 kids or more in each chapter and in one year thousands of lives are touched. Imagine... Spy music plays in the background. Agent Handlers assign TOP SECRET missions. Mission success is recorded on a World Map and "Lives Touched" are counted on a Mission Tracker. And, agents

earn Mission Stars for their official MPkids T-shirts after each completed mission -- every 6 missions earns a promotion in Special Agent status -- all this while changing the world!

Look for more information about our new MPkids chapter in the next few weeks. "Agent" meetings will be held once a month on Sundays after church for Elementary aged children. Volunteers are needed for this *fabulous* new program! Contact Jan to find out more info and volunteer today!!

Created By God Human Sexuality Seminar

The Created by God Human Sexuality Seminar will be offered to all 5th and 6th graders the weekend of April 3, 4, & 5th. This course will be lead by Janet Thompson. There is a fee of \$30 to participate in the course. More information can be found about the course on the separate brochure for this program.

Deadline for sign ups is Monday, March 31st.

The United Methodist Church has developed and published a complete study designed for use with older elementary kids. The curriculum explains human growth, sexual development, and reproduction from a Christian perspective. The goal is for the

participants to understand and celebrate the special person that God has created and that he or she is becoming!



Nursery News

Our goal in our nursery is for your child to experience church as a nurturing and safe place where they are truly loved! While in our nursery during worship and/or the Sunday School hour, your child will be loved on and have all their needs met by our wonderful, trained and experienced caregivers. Upon check-in you will be issued a pager that allows the nursery



staff to contact you quickly and easily if any problems should arise. In addition, we have in place a system which insures that only you or another adult you designate may pick up your child from our nursery.

Nursery care is offered from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm on Sundays for infants through kindergarten aged children. Childcare is available for all special services and church events by reservation. Drop by the nursery on Sunday mornings and get to know the smiling faces that show God's love and care to our littlest ones on Sunday mornings!

Confirmation Update...

It's a busy time of year for our 6th grade Confirmands! They are all hard at work with their Mentors and in class getting ready for their big day on May 18th. On Sunday, May 18th at the 11:00 am worship service, the Confirmands will profess their faith and be accepted into full membership in the church. Our 6th graders have spent the year learning more about what it means to be a Christian and about what it means to express their faith as a United Methodist. They are excited and looking forward to this day and moving up into the youth programs here at Spring Valley.

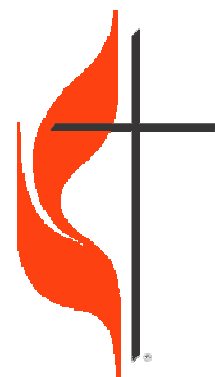
Recently our group participated in the Bishop's Confirmation Celebration hosted by the conference. This event is a fun-filled afternoon of crafts, games, a mission project and inspiring worship lead. Confirmands from all over the conference had the opportunity to meet one another and Bishop Norris of the North Texas Conference.

The Confirmands will join the youth group for an event at Group Dynamix on Sunday, March 30. Meet at the church at 5:00 that afternoon.

The Confirmation Retreat is on Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00 am until

2:30 pm at the church.

This is a *required* event for both confirmands and mentors.



**Confirmed in
Christ**

VBS 2008



Beach Party VBS will take kids on an exciting journey to the ocean where they will learn the basics of surfing,

ride the wave of God's love, and go home with a new Beach-Be Attitude. Having a Beach Be-Attitude means being obedient, kind, forgiving, bold, and believing. Enjoy cool beach music reminiscent of the Beach Boys, and a Surf 'n' Sand Science Lab that will mesmerize kids with activities that bring home that day's Bible teaching and Be-Attitude. VBS 2008 Director is

Kim Martinez and Assistant Director is Becky Hydrick. Plan now to join in the fun!

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 21-25, 2008 from 9:00 am until Noon for children age 4 through 5th grade graduates. Registration begins in May.

Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages is held each Sunday from 9:45 until 10:45.

The Preschool class uses the Exploring Faith curriculum. Exploring Faith is a United Methodist curriculum that uses a four year plan to introduce the biblical stories and characters as well as the seasons of the church to young children in an age appropriate way. This class is taught by Dana Taylor,

Denyse Manzenza and Lora Sybert. Kindergarten through 5th graders participate in Rotation Model Sunday School using the Potter's Workshops curriculum. Rotation Model focuses on a Bible story or theme for a six week period and uses innovative methods for engaging the children in the lessons. Children and their adult Shepherd attend a different work-

shop each Sunday during a unit. Workshops are taught by a teacher who prepares and teaches that particular workshop to all age levels. There are two teams of teachers and shepherds who trade off responsibilities every six weeks.

Join us for Sunday School.

7700 Spring Valley Road
Dallas, TX 75254

Children and Family Ministries:

- Seeking God
- Studying the Word
- Serving others



A Word from Jan...

There are two very basic approaches to Christian Education for children (and adults). The first approach is informational and focuses on teaching children about God in the hope of leading them to develop a relationship with the God they have come to know and understand. The second approach is formational with a focus on nurturing the innate relationship children already have with God so they can easily take in more information about God from the Bible and the traditions of the church.

Is one of these approaches more valuable or important than the other? As adults engaged in the faith development of our children, we want to be able to know and to at times measure what our children are learning while at church and in Sunday School. However, how many Bible verses a child has memorized or how quickly he or she can locate a scripture verse

doesn't tell us much about their inner landscape and how they view themselves as child of God. Through the practice of spiritual disciplines we grow and change and are transformed by our relationship with God and with our community. Our view of the world can be altered and expanded by examining it in the light of the gospel. The habit of striving to measure up and 'get it right' in our work and in our faith leaves us little time for contemplation, solitude, and listening to God. The Children's Council feels strongly that both approaches are important for the spiritual development of our children. We look forward to finding ways to become ever more balanced in our approach to the process of growing disciples and to providing you as parents more tools and ideas for building faith in your home. Be on the lookout for new programs as we develop them!

How can you help? I'm glad you asked! The most important thing you do is to share your faith with your child. Talk about your relationship with God and what work you do in the world to further God's kingdom. Secondly, bring your child to Sunday School and church regularly. The spiritual practice and habit of learning and worshipping God is a valuable one to develop. And last but certainly not least—get involved! When your child sees you serving God in the church and in the community, they want to do it too!

I hope you will join us on our journey as we develop and nurture the next generation of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ!

Blessings,

Jan
